

CLAIMS

1-103. Cancelled.

104. (Amended) An electrochemical test strip for conducting testing for the concentration of glucose in a blood sample, comprising:

a strip body including an edge surface extending about the perimeter of said strip body, said strip body defining a capillary channel and a vent in fluid communication with the capillary channel, said strip body comprising a sample application port open at a location along the edge surface, the capillary channel having opposed sides extending from the sample application port to at least the vent;

at least working and counter electrodes spaced from each other and positioned within the capillary channel at a location spaced from the perimetric edge surface;

a test reagent adjacent at least the working electrode; and  
visualization means associated with the capillary channel for enabling a user to visually identify when a sufficient amount of blood sample has been added to the capillary channel to accurately perform a test, said visualization means including a solid, transparent or translucent, viewing material extending from at least adjacent the sample application port and overlying at least a portion of the capillary channel including said working electrode and at least a portion of said counter electrode, said visualization means further including said strip body having opaque portions generally aligned with the opposed sides of the capillary channel from adjacent the sample application port to at least one of the electrodes, the viewing material and the opaque portions defining a viewing area required to be filled to have a minimum sample amount for said test strip.

105-106. (Cancelled)

107. (Amended) The test strip of claim 104 in which the opposed sides of the capillary channel are parallel and extend in a straight line from the sample application port, and orthogonal to the perimetric edge surface, to at least one of the electrodes.

108. (Cancelled)

109. (Amended) The test strip of claim 107 in which the opaque portions are spaced apart to reveal greater than about 75% of the width of the capillary channel.

110. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 109 in which the opaque portions are aligned with the opposed sides of the capillary channel.

111. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 104 in which said strip body includes a first substrate, a second substrate and a roof, the second substrate being positioned intermediate the first substrate and the roof and including an opening, the opening of the second substrate together with the first substrate and the roof defining the capillary channel.

112. (Amended) The test strip of claim 111 in which said test strip includes conductive tracks connected with said working and counter electrodes, the first substrate having first and second surfaces, the working and counter electrodes being affixed to the first surface of the first substrate, the second substrate having first and second surfaces and an opening, the second surface of the second substrate being affixed to the first surface of the first substrate, the second substrate configured to expose a portion of the conductive tracks for electrical connection to a meter capable of measuring an electrical property, the opening being located along a perimetric edge surface of the second substrate and exposing said electrodes, and a roof having first and second surfaces and including a solid, transparent or translucent, viewing material, the second surface of the roof being affixed to the first surface of the second substrate and positioned so that it overlays the opening of the second substrate and so that the

second surface of the roof and the first surface of the first substrate form opposing walls of the capillary channel, the transparent or translucent viewing material extending from at least adjacent to the sample application port and overlying the entire width of one of the electrodes and at least about ten percent of the width of the other electrode.

113. (Amended) The test strip of claim 111 in which the second substrate defines the opposed sides of the capillary channel, the sides being parallel and extending in a straight line from the sample application port, and orthogonal to the perimetric edge surface, to at least one of the electrodes.

114. (Cancelled)

115. (Amended) The test strip of claim 113 in which the opaque portions are spaced apart to reveal greater than about 75% of the width of the capillary channel.

116. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 115 in which the opaque portions are aligned with the opposed sides of the capillary channel.

117. (Previously Presented) The test strip of claim 116 in which the opaque portions are defined by the roof.

118-126. (Cancelled)

127. (Amended) An electrochemical test strip for conducting testing for the concentration of glucose in a blood sample, comprising:

a strip body including an edge surface extending about the perimeter of said strip body, said strip body defining a capillary channel and a vent in fluid communication with the capillary channel, said strip body comprising a sample application port open at a location along the perimetric edge surface, the capillary channel extending from the sample application

port to at least the vent, said strip body further defining a test area along the capillary channel between the sample application port and the vent;

at least working and counter electrodes spaced from each other and positioned within the test area of the capillary channel at a location spaced from the perimetric edge surface;

a test reagent received within the test area of the capillary channel and adjacent at least the working electrode;

said strip body including a solid, transparent or translucent viewing material overlying at least a portion of the capillary channel, including from a portion thereof at or generally adjacent the sample application port continuously up to and including said working electrode and at least a portion of said counter electrode, the viewing material permitting visualization of the blood sample as it moves through the capillary channel to the test area;

said strip body further including opaque portions defining a fill area viewable through the viewing material, the fill area comprising an area of the capillary channel needed to be filled to conduct an accurate test;

wherein observation through the viewing material of the blood sample within the capillary channel up to said electrodes comprises confirmation of sufficient blood sample being introduced into the capillary channel to conduct a test.

128. (Amended) The test strip of claim 127 in which the opaque portions are sized and dimensioned such that the blood sample is required to fill up to the electrodes the portion of the capillary channel viewable through the viewing material and between the opaque portions in order to have a sufficient amount of blood sample to conduct a test.

129. (Amended) The test strip of claim 127 in which the opaque portions extend continuously in alignment with the opposed sides of the capillary channel from the perimetric edge surface to the electrodes.

130. (Amended) The test strip of claim 129 in which the opaque portions are sized and dimensioned such that the blood sample is required to fill up to the electrodes the portion of the capillary channel viewable through the viewing material and between the opaque portions in order to have a sufficient amount of blood sample to conduct a test.

131. (New) An electrochemical test strip for conducting testing for the concentration of glucose in a blood sample, comprising:

a strip body including an edge surface extending about the perimeter of said strip body, said strip body defining a capillary channel and a vent in fluid communication with the capillary channel, said strip body comprising a sample application port open at a location along the edge surface, the capillary channel having opposed sides extending from the sample application port to at least the vent;

at least working and counter electrodes spaced from each other and positioned within the capillary channel at a location spaced from the perimetric edge surface;

a test reagent adjacent at least the working electrode; and

visualization means associated with the capillary channel for enabling a user to visually identify when a sufficient amount of blood sample has been added to the capillary channel to accurately perform a test, said visualization means including a solid, transparent or translucent, viewing material extending from at least adjacent the sample application port and overlying at least a portion of the capillary channel including said working electrode and at least a portion of said counter electrode, said visualization means further including said strip

body having colored portions generally aligned with the opposed sides of the capillary channel from adjacent the sample application port to at least one of the electrodes, the viewing material and the colored portions defining a viewing area required to be filled to have a minimum sample amount for said test strip, the colored portions having a color which sufficiently contrasts with the color of the sample as viewed through the viewing material as to enable a user of reasonable visual acuity to determine if the viewing area is entirely full of the sample.